(a) whether Government have formed an agency known as 'Petronet';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this agency will start LNG terminal in Gujarat and Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) With the approval of the Government, a Joint Venture Company namely Petronet LNG Ltd. has been formed with equity participation of upto 50% by GAIL, LOCL, ONGC and BPCL while the balance is to be offered to financial institutions, private parties etc. Petronet LNG Ltd. will establish LNG Terminals at Dahet (Gujarat) of 5 Million Tonnes Per Annum capacity and at Cochin (Kerala) of 2.5 Million Tonnes Per Annum capacity.

Appointment of Member of Board of Directors

2735. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether director level officers have been appointed as Members of the Board of Directors in the National Oil Giants; and

(b) whether it has normally been the practice to have only Joint Secretary level officers on the Board of large Public Sector Enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b): Director level officers have been appointed as members on the Board of Directors in the oil PSUs in addition to the Additional Secretary/Joint Secretaries, having regard to the need for restricting the number of Directorships evenly in the Ministry and taking into account the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises dated 16th March, 1992.

Production of crude Oil and Gas

2736. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of crude oil and gas in the country during this year;

(b) whether there is any marginal increase/decrease over that of last year;

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the indigenous production of crude oil gas in the country;

(d) whether any new seismic studies have been undertaken to find new oil/gas locations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The production of crude oil and gas during the period April-October in the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 was as under:

	Crude oil (MMT)	Natural Gas (MCM)
1997-98 (April-Oct.)	19.78	14830
1998-99 (April-Oct.)	19.05	15620

(c) Steps being taken to increase the production of crude oil and Natural gas are:—

(i) 3 D seismic survey for better understanding of the oil fields especially to identify the undrained/by passed oil

(ii) Rectificatory measures for Bombay High and Neelam Oil Fields.

(iii) Adoption of specialised technologies such as ERD, horizontal and drain hole drilling, scale removal treatment jobs & long drift side tracking of wells.

(iv) Implementation of new schemes of oil/gas development.

(v) Improving the recovery percentage from the producing fields.

(vi) Reducing R/P ratio of fields having high R/P.

(vii) Installation artificial lift and stimulation of wells.

(viii) Intensive and extensive exploration including in frontier areas and deep waters to augment reserve base

(d) and (e) During the year 1997-98, the details of acquisition of seismic data by ONGC/OIL/Private/Joint Venture firms were as under:

	ONGC	OIL	Pvt/JV
Onshore 2D	4568 GLK	1112 SLKM 359 GLK	1055.5 GLK
3D	11744 GLK	166 SQKM	—
Offshore 2D	1910 LK	—	527 GLK
3D	8244 LK	—	112 SSK

News-Item captioned "Ban Fails to Curbs sale of illegal LGP Cylinder"

2737. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-items appearing in Hindustan Times dated 2nd December, 1998 captioned "Ban fails to curb sale of a legal LPG cylinder."

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether massive sales of illegal LPG cyclinders claim many lives every year;

(d) if so, the number of deaths during the last three years, year-wise and

(e) what concrete steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The news paper article captioned "Ban fails to curb sale of a illegal LPG cylinder" in Hindustan Times dated 2.12.98 is regardinmg illegal manufacture of LPG Cylinders despite ban of the same by the Government and various checks and measures to curb such activities. The article highlights serious LPG accidents on account of sale of spurious equipment.

(b) to (e) No. case of illegal units manufacturing LPG cylinder for PSU Oil Companies has been reported. The following number of deaths occurred during last three years in connection with accidents relating to LPG cylinders and use of LPG,

Year	No. of Deaths
1995-96	44
1996-97	72
1997-98	45

Oil companies carry out elaborate quality control checks on each cylinder filled at the bottling plants. After passing all the quality control checks at the LPG bottling plants, each and every cylinder is sealed before it is loaded and despatched to the LPG distributors. Oil companies use aluminium and PVC seals to ensure that the LPG cylinder are not tampered with before they are delivered to the consumers. Many accidents, occur on account of unauthorised and irregular use and handling of LPG cylinders.

Stealing of Diesel From Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline

2738. SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

628RSF-5B